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FOOD PREVIEW

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A summary of the food outlook especially designed to give maximum advance information to food editors to help them plan food features.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service

October 27, 1958
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MEAT:

- Beef.....Slaughter still lags a little behind last year's rate despite larger marketings of fed cattle. As many fed cattle will probably be slaughtered this fall as in 1957, but fewer grass cattle. Number in feed lots October 1 ran 12% ahead of last October and about same proportion is headed for market before year's end.
- Pork.....Slaughter this fall will average about same as last year, but early in 1959 will run significantly above 1958 rate.
- Lamb.....Crop is 4% larger than last year and since lamb and sheep slaughter to October 1 averaged about 7% less, January 1 inventory is likely being built up more rapidly than in 1957. In fact, this year's addition to herds may reach at least 1-1/2 million head.

POULTRY:

- Chicken.....Substantially larger supplies of broilers and fryers will continue moving to market rest of 1958, compared with year earlier.
- Turkey.....The 1958 crop--78 million birds--falls short of last year's record 81 million--but, due to large late hatch, marketings balance of year will run heavier than 1957. In December, they may be as much as a fifth above year earlier.
- Eggs.....Production to January 1 will be 3 to 5% greater than 1957 level, and continue to exceed last year through early part of 1959.

DAIRY: Seasonally low milk output continues a little under last year. Since use exceeds present production, commercial storage holdings--excepting nonfat dry milk--have been reduced.

FRUITS:

- Apples.....Latest apple crop roundup indicates about 125-1/3 million bushels. That's around 6-3/4 million above last year and 17 million bushels above average.
- Cranberries..Estimated 1 million, 108 thousand barrels--6% more than 1957 and 16% above average.
- Pears.....Total crop just above 29 million bushels--8% below last year but about average. Cold storage stocks about same as last October 1, or 5.6 million bushels.
- Grapes.....Indications point to a crop of Emperor grapes--principal variety available during coming months--about same as year earlier.
- Avocados....Florida crop--2 thousand, 800 tons--only a fifth as large as last year. But California Fuerte crop expected to be considerably above average, based October 1 condition.
- Dried.....Output of dried fruits totals somewhat below 1957's relatively light figure. California dried prunes--estimated at 110 thousand tons--runs

a third smaller than both last year and average. Raisin production will probably fall somewhat below 1957, which was lightest since 1950.

Canned.....The 1958-59 pack of canned fruits will not run as large as previous heavy pack, if current prospects materialize. Packers' carryover stocks of most items as canning season began were below last year.

Frozen.....Production of frozen fruits and fruit juices expected to be moderately below 1957 record of about 1.6 billion pounds, but some increase in total output probable next year. Packers' stocks of Florida frozen orange juice in early October had declined to 13.7 million gallons--34% below year earlier--and reduction expected to be considerably more before 1958-59 concentrate pack available in volume. This is due to Florida orange crop maturing later this fall than last.

Citrus.....Latest estimates place 1958-59 early and mid-season orange crop at 65 million, 200 thousand boxes--about 2% above last year's relatively short crop and 9% above average. Florida Valencia crop--forecast 34 million boxes--runs 14% above last year and 3% above average. Tangerines--4 million boxes--about double previous light crop but 15% below average. Grapefruit estimate--41 million boxes--7% above 1957 but 6% less than average. This does not include California summer crop.

Tree Nuts....Pecans estimated at nearly 171 million pounds. That's over a fifth greater than last year and 15% above average. Almonds--20 thousand tons--a sharp 47% below last year and 51% under average. Filberts--7 thousand, 400 tons--41% below 1957 but only slightly below average. Walnuts--85 thousand tons--28% greater than last year and 16% above average.

HONEY: Estimates slightly over 252 million pounds. That's 4% above last year. At latest report beekeepers' stocks stood at 43% of 1958 production--nearly 10% above year earlier.

VEGETABLES:

Fresh.....Fall supplies expected to be slightly larger than both last year and average. Most increase in early fall cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, sweet corn and tomatoes. Late fall lettuce supplies materially larger than last year but late fall celery expected to be considerably smaller. Substantially more fall sweet corn and eggplant in prospect but less snap beans, Brussels sprouts, and green peppers.

Potatoes....Supplies are heavy since fall crop is 12% greater than 1957. Sweet potatoes--a shade above last year's crop but 8% below average.

Processed....Indications point to heavy supplies into mid-1959. Although carryover stocks of both canned and frozen vegetables were smaller at beginning of season than year earlier, the larger canned pack in prospect--particularly tomato juice and tomato products--will probably more than offset this. Overall supply of frozen vegetables may fall somewhat short of last season but most items will be ample to heavy.

THE PLENTIFUL

FOODS PROGRAM: The U. S. Department of Agriculture is supporting these industry campaigns:

NATIONAL HONEY WEEK.....October 27 - November 2
FALL BROILER CAMPAIGN.....October 1 - November 30
FALL APPLE CAMPAIGN.....November 1 - December 31
"TURKEY FOR CHRISTMAS".....December 1 - 31
MID-WINTER POTATO CAMPAIGN.....January 1 - 31
MARCH EGG MONTH.....March 1 - 31